

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION

SEALED

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:20-CV-415-DPJ-FKB

SEALED

DEFENDANT

**UNITED STATES' RESPONSE TO DEEP SOUTH TODAY ("MISSISSIPPI TODAY")'S
MOTION TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL COURT FILE**

On August 17, 2022, Deep South Today ("Mississippi Today") filed a Motion to Intervene and Unseal Court File (the "Motion"). At this time, the United States does not oppose the Motion, as the interests that favored nondisclosure of this court file have changed.

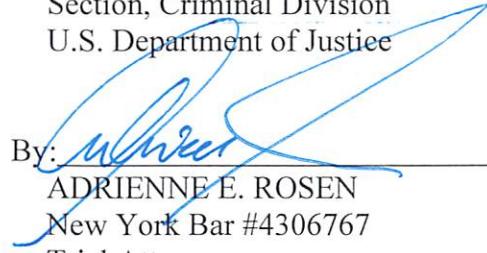
The government's request to seal, and the Court's subsequent order, were correct at the time. Though the public generally "has a common law right to inspect and copy judicial records," that right is not absolute. *Bradley on Behalf of AJW v. Ackal*, 954 F.3d 216, 224 (5th Cir. 2020) (quoting *SEC v. Van Waeyenbergh*, 990 F.2d 845, 848 (5th Cir. 1993)). The right is weighed "against the interests favoring nondisclosure." *Id.* at 225. When the United States filed this civil forfeiture action more than two years ago, the interests "favoring nondisclosure" were great: the unsealing would have negatively impacted the integrity of an ongoing investigation by prematurely disclosing its scope and direction, subjects, and potential witnesses, and would have publicized a roadmap of the government's strategy.

Due to the unsealing of a separate court filing on September 21, 2022, the interests favoring nondisclosure no longer outweigh the right to public access to this court file. Thus, the United States does not oppose the relief sought in this Motion.

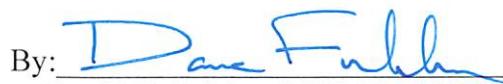
Date: September 22, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES CURT BOHLING, Acting Chief
Money Laundering and Asset Recovery
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